United Nations A/C.1/54/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 October 1999
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda items 67 and 76

Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 7 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an official statement issued on 5 October 1999 by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning anti-missile testing by the United States of America under the national anti-missile defence programme (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 67 and 76.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

99-29279 (E) 081099 081099

Annex

Statement issued on 5 October 1999 by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

As has been reported, on 2 October 1999 the United States of America conducted, as part of its programme to create a national anti-missile defence system, a flight test of the Minuteman anti-missile rocket using a dummy warhead. This test is a step that runs counter to the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (the ABM Treaty), article 1 of which prohibits even the provision of a base for such a defence.

Such actions by the United States of America in reality tend to undermine the key provisions of the aforementioned Treaty, with all the negative consequences this entails, responsibility for which will lie with the United States.

In fact, the system of international arms control treaties and agreements, the regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the whole system of strategic stability that has been put in place are threatened.

The Russian Federation insists on the preservation and enhancement of the effectiveness of the ABM Treaty as the most important element for ensuring strategic stability in the world and furthering the process of nuclear disarmament. It is thus in the interest of the entire international community resolutely to support this agreement which is so vital to international security.